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MEDIA REPORTAGE ON PRESIDIUM RATIFICATION OF ARMS PACT

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USS-attributed report: "An Important Contribution to the Consolidation of Peace and Security"]

On 29 September a session of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium was held in the Kremlin. The session was opened by N.V. Podgornyy, USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium Chairman. The presidium examined the question "On the Ratification of the Treaty between the USSR and the United States on the Limitation of ABM Systems."

V. Kuznetsov, USSR first deputy foreign minister, spoke on behalf of the Soviet Government.

The treaty between the USSR and the United States on ABM systems limitation submitted to the USSR Council of Ministers for ratification, he said, was signed in Moscow on May this year on behalf of the Soviet Union by L.I. Brezhnev, CPSU Central Committee General Secretary, and by U.S. President R. Nixon on behalf of the United States.

The conclusion of the ABM systems limitation treaty and the interim agreement on several measures in the field of the limitation of strategic offensive arms was a major step in the solution of the problem of the limitation of the arms race in its most important sector--the field of strategic arms, continuing the tendency which has been outlined in recent years thanks to the Soviet Union's energetic efforts, actively supported by the socialist countries and all peace-loving peoples.

The conclusion of the treaty on ABM systems and the interim agreement on offensive strategic arms, like the general outcome of the meeting between Soviet leaders and the U.S. President in May this year, represents a major step along the path of the implementation of the peace program adopted by the 24th CPSU Congress and an important contribution to the implementation of our party's general line in the field of foreign policy.

The essence of the ABM systems limitation treaty, V.V. Kuznetsov said further, lies in the fact that the sides can have no more than two regions for the emplacement of ABM systems with a radius of 150 kilometers each, and in each of these two regions no more than 100 ABM launching installations. ABM launching installations must not be created or developed for launching more than one AEM at the same time. The sides pledge themselves not to create or develop ABM systems or components emplaced in the sea, the air or space or of a mobile ground type and also assume a number of other commitments aimed at insuring the effective limitation of ABM systems.

An important component part of the treaty is the sides' pledge not to give to other states or emplace outside their own national territory either ABM systems or their components limited by this treaty.

The mutual renunciation of the development of ABM systems on a nationwide scale provided for by the treaty places both sides in the same position from the viewpoint of security and makes it possible to avoid the large expenditures in which the sides would have been involved in developing ABM systems.

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The attempts of those in the United States who support the continuation of the nuclear arms race to ignore this principle, to strive for one-sided military advantages, and to conduct a dialog with us from "a position of strength" are doomed to failure.

We are obligated for the success of the Soviet-American summit talks, during which the treaty on limiting ABM systems was signed, to the untiring, principled activity of our party's Leninist Central Committee aimed at strengthening peace and universal security and at creating favorable international conditions for communist building in our country and at further consolidating the forces of peace and socialism.

The guarantee of our motherland's further successes in implementing prestige and might is the selfless labor of Soviet people in fulfilling the far-reaching tasks set by the 24th CPSU Congress.

V.V. Grishin said in conclusion: I support the proposal that the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium ratify the treaty between the USSR and the United States on limiting ABM systems in the form in which it was signed, without any amendments or reservations.

Marshal of the Soviet Union A.A. Grechko, USSR Defense Minister, spoke next.

The treaty on limiting ABM systems, he said, provides for a quantitatively small development of ABM facilities by the USSR and the United States and prohibits the handover of these facilities to other states or the deployment of them outside the countries' national territories. At the same time it imposes no limitations on the performance of research and experimental work aimed at resolving the problem of defending the country against nuclear missile attack. Thus the treaty checks the further quantitative increasing of ABM facilities and blocks the development of competition between offensive and defensive nuclear missile weapons.

The ABM treaty is based on the principle of equal limitation conditions and gives no military advantage to either side.

The publication of both the treaty and the interim agreement was the result of the implementation of the aims and principles of the peace-loving Leninist foreign policy, which were adopted by the 24th CPSU Congress and are being actively pursued by our party and government, and was the fruit of great preparatory work and of the complex Soviet-American summit talks.

They became possible thanks to our country's tremendous economic and military strength, the constant stepping up of its defense might, and the further consolidation of the close cooperation between the socialist states.

The CPSU Central Committee and the government devote great attention to the problem of preventing nuclear war, which is a deadly threat to the future of all mankind. This problem was also the center of attention in the Soviet-American summit talks in May. The documents signed do not, of course, remove the threat of nuclear war, but they lessen it and reduce the risk of open military clashes and create a basis for a further improvement in the political climate throughout the world.

We fully support the foreign policy steps taken by the CPSU Central Committee and the Soviet Government, A.A. Grechko stated, and the measures to lessen international tension and the ABM treaty we have concluded.